WELCOME TO American Government

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| *“*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” –Margaret Mead |

🟊*Why am I taking this class?*

The government is making decisions that affect the way you live everyday. This course is about explaining how and why those decisions are made and figuring out how they affect *you* and how *you* feel about them. As a citizen in a democracy, you have a responsibility to hold the government accountable for the decisions that it makes. The best way to do that is to become educated about how the government works and participate actively.

🟊*What cool things will I learn and do?*

Have you ever wondered…?

* Why the price of things you buy at the grocery store keeps going up?
* Whether the police can *actually* do that?
* Why you can’t curse in school, if America is truly the land of the “free”?
* Why there are so many vacant homes in Baltimore, and what is being done about it?
* What the inside of the Capitol Building looks like?
* Why America sends foreign aid to other countries, when it has so many people that could use the money in the United States?

These questions –and many more – will be discussed this year. In addition, I am planning a field trip to D.C. to explore our nations capitol. You will also participate in a mock election, mock trial, and several debates.

🟊*What am I responsible for everyday?*

Each day, when you arrive, you must:

* Greet your teacher at the door with a handshake
* Take your returned work from the returned work bin
* Take out your notebook/pen/feedback folder (all provided at the start of the year)
* Put your homework at the upper right hand corner of the desk **(THERE WILL BE HOMEWORK EVERY NIGHT)**
* Copy and complete the “Call to Order” (the drill questions) in your notebook
* Be respectful of others, relentless in your pursuit of knowledge, responsible for your work, and responsive to teacher feedback during the class
* If you are absent, you must make up the work. Coach class is Monday, Tuesday and Thursday after school.
* Late work receives a maximum of 75% credit. After one week, it receives a zero.
* Shake hands with your teacher on the way out

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| “Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education.”  *-Franklin D. Roosevelt* |